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## Quadrennial reports for the period 2001-2004 submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31*

**Note by the Secretary-General**

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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## 1. Mediterranean Council for Burns and Fire Disasters

### Special consultative status granted in 2001

Guided by the spirit, mission and action of the United Nations, the Mediterranean Council for Burns and Fire Disasters (MBC) applied for consultative relationship with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations and in 2001 was honored to be accorded Special Consultative Status. Since then this NGO has been active in its international scientific and humanitarian work and has constantly supported the tenets of the United Nations in every way.

**--Aims and Action of the MBC---**

The primary aim of this NGO is to promote and ensure high quality and equitable care for patients who have extensive burns, for societies and communities in fire disaster, for victims of toxic explosions, nuclear accidents and complex emergencies, in the spirit of alleviating suffering and strengthening international cooperation. It also promotes prevention, fire safety at home and at work, and introduces appropriate technology, especially in developing countries.

Besides these technical activities, this NGO is very much involved in humanitarian service and has separately promoted the establishment of the International Association for Humanitarian Medicine, which is now fully operational and collaborates with the United Nations.

The MBC is a highly professional scientific group, grounded in solid technical work but with a social conscience which expects that such work should be a service to all peoples' well-being, based on the health, humanitarian, scientific and peace-promoting principles of the United Nations and of the World Health Organization. It is in appreciation of these values that WHO had already recognized this NGO as a "WHO Collaborating Centre", and in view of its increasingly valuable services, it was additionally entrusted, in 2001, with the task of Coordinating Office of Collaborating Centres, thus bringing together all the 17 WHO Collaborating Centres on Emergency and Humanitarian Operations throughout the world into more concerted action. This is a significant upward change in the organization within the past quadrennial reporting period.

--A new organizational affiliation has been added. The MBC is now in relation with ACUNS - the Academic Council on the United Nations System, ECOSOC accredited.

--The organization's publication, 'The Annals' has regularly carried a special dedicated section called "The WHO Page". At its Annual Meeting in November 2004 in Cyprus, the Assembly decided to extend the coverage of this section which, as of January, is called "The WHO and UN Pages", thus showing the closer ties with the United Nations.

**Activities**

-- The President of the MBC regularly attended the 57th, 58th, 59th and 60th sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, Switzerland) in 2001,2002,2003,2004 respectively. He has also regularly attended the annual sessions of the World Health Assembly and the WHO Executive Board during that period.

-- In August 2003 the MBC's Journal carried a special In Memoriam upon the tragic death of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Sergio Vieira de Mello. Appreciatory letters were received from the Secretary-General and the Acting High Commissioner.

-- As a surgeon, the President has been acting as consulting medical advisor to the Chairman of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and has attended meetings upon invitation of its Chair, Ambassador J. Walkate (tragically deceased April 2005).

-- This NGO is advisor to WHO on all burn and fire disaster matters. When a series of oil pipeline explosions in Nigeria caused very high death rates and a great number of extensive burn victims, the MBC President and Secretary-General went on emergency mission at the request of WHO to treat patients, advise the government and organize the disaster response. We subsequently also organized surgical training and disaster management for Nigerian doctors.

-- At the height of the recent war in Iraq no patients were allowed to go out of the country for treatment that was unavailable locally. However, the MBC hospitals in Palermo, Italy, and in Graz, Austria, were the only exceptional centers to be given permission to admit such seriously ill patients through our "World Open Hospital" humanitarian network. Furthermore, members of our organization, e.g. Brigadier-General Dr. Leo Klein, acted also in the name of the MBC when on mission with the Czech medical team.

-- United Nations and WHO officials are always invited to MBC Conferences. Thus, inter alia, the Chief of the NGO Section in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) participated and represented the UN more than once, giving talks about the mission and action of the United Nations and about the role of Civil Society. The Chief of the WHO Human Rights Section addressed the theme of Health and Human Rights. (Rome, Italy meeting, December 2003.)

-- The MBC takes part in as many relevant United Nations meetings as possible. For example, it attended the United Nations Office of Geneva information session for NGOs in Geneva, Switzerland November 2001. The President and Secretary-General attended the preparatory meetings on communications technology and the WHO sessions on the Millennium Development Goals. The MDGs have been serially published in our Journal.

-- Our Journal has also carried important articles by Secretary-General Kofi Annan, by Mr Shashi Tharoor, by Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali and high officials of the World Health Organization.

-- National and academic honours related to United Nations work include: The Secretary-General of the MBC, Prof. M. Masellis, was awarded the Presidential Gold Medal of Italy for his contributions to international public health; and the President, Prof. S.W. Gunn, was awarded the degree of Doctor *honoris causa* from Charles University, Prague, for services to international civil defense and humanitarian medicine.

The Mediterranean Council for Burns and Fire Disasters respectfully presents this brief Quadrennial Report to the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and United Nations Economic and Social Council and looks forward to a continuing and fruitful collaboration.

## 2. ORBICOM — Réseau des chaires UNESCO en communication

**General consultative status granted in 1997**

Orbicom is a specialized network of UNESCO jointly created in 1994 by UNESCO and the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) with 26 Chairs and 246 Associate members in 73 countries.

**Area of activity**

Development of communication in the world

**Geographical Distribution**

Australia, Brisbane
Brazil, São Paulo
Bulgaria, Sofia
Canada, Montreal
Chile, Santiago
Colombia, Bogota
Denmark, Copenhagen
España, Barcelona
España, Madrid
France, Grenoble
Germany, Konstanz
Guyana, Georgetown
Hungary, Budapest
Kazakhstan, Almaty
Lithuania, Vilnius
Mexico, Ciudad de México
Maroc, Rabat
Peru, Lima
Philippines, Quezon City
Republica Dominicana, Santo Domingo
Russia, Moscow
South Africa, Durban
Republic of Korea, Seoul
United Arab Emirates, Dubai
United States of America, Austin
Uruguay, Montevideo

**Sources of Funding**

Secretariat : CAD 180 000 (annual) funded by UQAM, Montreal-International and membership. Research Projects: CAD 400 000 (annual) funded by UNESCO, IDRC, CIDA, InfoDev, La Francophonie, UNDP/APDIP Programme, ITU.

**Participation in United Nations Meetings and Conferences**

- World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), Geneva, 10-12 December 2003.

In support of United Nations activities, Orbicom actively participated in 2001, 2002 and 2003 in the preparatory committees (Prepcoms)leading to the first phase of the (WSIS) in December 2003.

Orbicom was also active from early 2004, in the Pepcoms leading to the second phase of WSIS which was to take place in November 2005 in Tunis.

Other Related Activities

- Orbicom organized the "Conference on Media in the Information Society in Africa and the Arab Countries" - Marrakech, November 2004.

- Orbicom produced scientific publications on the digital divide as contributions to the first phase of WSIS;

In 2003: "The Digital Review of Asia Pacific – 2003-2004 Edition";

In 2003: "Monitoring the Digital Divide... and Beyond" in English and French

- As a direct response to the 2003 WSIS Action Plan, an "Opportunity Index" was produced by Orbicom as a joint ITU-Orbicom initiative for the 2005 Tunis Summit, along with new publications.

### 3. Oxfam America

**Special consultative status granted in 1993**

Oxfam America is dedicated to creating lasting solutions to poverty, hunger, and social injustice in the world. It funds and provides technical assistance to about 260 partner organizations in 30 developing countries and the United States through seven regional offices based in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), San Salvador (El Salvador), Lima (Peru), Dakar (Senegal), Harare (Zimbabwe), Phnom Penh (Cambodia) and Boston (United States of America).

Oxfam America promotes the advancement of poor people's social and economic rights, such as land rights, water rights, labor rights, and the rights of women and indigenous people, as well as peace-building and access to credit and other markets. It also provides emergency, rehabilitation and reconstruction assistance (e.g., water & sanitation through Oxfam GB, food, seeds and tools, building construction) after natural disasters and conflicts.

Oxfam America also educates and mobilizes the United States public to pressure the United States government and corporations on issues relevant to its mission, within the limits of United States tax law.

Oxfam America is an affiliate of Oxfam International, which also has consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. However, Oxfam America is an independent organization incorporated as a non-profit organization in Massachusetts, funded primarily by about 200,000 individuals residing in the United States, and secondarily by foundations, private corporations, and other affiliates of Oxfam International.

Oxfam America's engagement with the United Nations has covered a range of social and economic rights issues, but has focused on both operational and policy aspects of response to humanitarian crises. At an operational level, the main crises on which the organization worked with the United Nations during the period under review were the wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Darfur (Sudan), as well as the ongoing food insecurity in Ethiopia. At a policy level, Oxfam America has also worked on a number of other crises, including Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Haiti.

Oxfam America engages the United Nations primarily through Oxfam International, which has offices in New York and Geneva and is registered at the NGO Section of DESA in its own name. However, Oxfam America employees occasionally interact directly with United Nations officials,

mostly of UNOCHA, UNDP, WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR, and the Secretary General's office. In November 2004, Oxfam America organized Oxfam International's Board meeting in New York, which was addressed by Mark Malloch Brown (then head of UNDP). Oxfam America's staff is in regular contact with the Permanent Mission of the United States to the United Nations – and with other branches of the United States government involved in United Nations issues – on behalf of Oxfam International.

Besides humanitarian crises, Oxfam America has also been involved in the preparations of the Financing for Development conference, through policy research, networking of civil society in the United States, and advocacy toward the United States government.

### 4. Tebtebba Foundation

#### Special consultative status granted in 2001

A restating of the Vision, Mission, Goals was undertaken during Tebtebba's Strategic Planning held in 2001 as follows:

Mission: Tebtebba is an indigenous peoples' organization and a research, education, and policy advocacy and resource center working with indigenous peoples at all levels and arenas. We seek the recognition and promotion of indigenous peoples' rights and aspirations while building unities to uphold social and environmental justice. We shall achieve this by reinforcing the capacities of indigenous peoples for advocacy, campaigns and networking; research, education, training and institutional development; and by actively articulating and projecting indigenous peoples' views and aspirations.

Vision: A world where indigenous knowledge and indigenous peoples' rights are respected and protected by all nations and societies; where there are unified yet diverse and vibrant indigenous peoples' movements at the local and global levels which enhance the self determination and sustainable development of indigenous peoples and their territories.

Tebtebba aims to achieve its mission through the various desks that it has set-up during the reporting period: Networking, Advocacy and Campaigns; Research, Education and Documentation; Publications, Gender; and Resource Center.

The formulation and sharpening of its Vision, Mission, Goals helped in unifying Tebtebba on its tasks and responsibilities in promoting and protecting indigenous peoples' rights worldwide. During the reporting period (2001-2004), a European Desk was also established to help in the lobby and advocacy work of Tebtebba.

#### Activities Undertaken (2001-2004)

Since acquiring its Special Consultative Status, Tebtebba has increased the range, frequency and quality of its engagement with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and its specialized bodies; in major word summits and conferences and has consistently involved itself with major conventions. A major milestone in the recognition of indigenous peoples was the establishment of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in 2002. Tebtebba played an important role leading to the establishment of this body. During these events, it

has helped bring in indigenous participants to help ensure that their voices are heard and acted upon, organized several side events and made several interventions that have put indigenous peoples agenda in official outcomes documents, declarations and action plans. The active role that Tebtebba has played in the indigenous peoples movement has resulted in having its Executive Director Victoria Tauli-Corpuz appointed as member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in 2004.

Tebtebba's major involvement with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) during the reporting period are enumerated below:

### 1. United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), ECOSOC

Tebtebba has actively participated in the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues since its establishment in 2002. Its participation include the following:

1st Session of the UNPFII, 12-24 May 2002, United Nations Headquarters, New York

- Coordinated and actively participated in the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus
- Accredited under Tebtebba several indigenous peoples for them to be able to attend the 1st Session

2nd Session of the UNPFII, 12-23, May 2003, United Nations Headquarters, New York

- Coordinated and help organize the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus
- Interventions included:

a. Development Policies and Indigenous Peoples, 15 May 2003

b. Indigenous Peoples' Caucus on Sustainable Development – Joint Statement on Economic and Social Development

c. Joint Statement of Indigenous Peoples' Caucus on Sustainable Development On Future Programme of Work

d. Methods of Work of the Forum with the United Nations System: Joint Caucus Statement of the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus on Sustainable Development, Asia Caucus Statement on follow up to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

e. Statement submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council [E/C.19/2003/NGO/2]

3rd Session of the UNPFII, 10-21 May 2004, United Nations Headquarters, New York

- Interventions included:

a. Health. 19 May 2004

b. Substantive Theme-Indigenous Women – Report of the 2nd Asian Indigenous Women's Conference, 11 May 2004/Mandated Areas – Baguio Declaration of the 2nd Asian Indigenous Women's Conference [E/C.19/2004/CRP.1]

In 2002, Tebtebba Foundation's Executive Director was nominated by Asian indigenous organizations to be its representative to the UNPFII for 2005-2008. This was confirmed by the United Nations ECOSOC in the same year.

**2. UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations (UNWGIP)**, Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, United Nations Commission on Human Rights

From 2001 to 2004, Tebtebba continued its participation in the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations (UNWGIP), Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights United Nations Commission on Human Rights held in Geneva, Switzerland. Some of its interventions, some of which were done collectively with other indigenous organizations include the following:

20th Session of the UNWGIP, 22-26 July 2002, Geneva, Switzerland

- Indigenous Caucus Statement on the UNWGIP, 20th Session of the UNWGIP, 22-26 July 2002

21st Session of the UNWGIP, 22-25 July 2003, Geneva, Switzerland

- General Review of Developments
- Indigenous Peoples and globalization
- Standard Setting: Protection of Indigenous Peoples' Heritage and Traditional Knowledge

22nd Session of the UNWGIP, 19-23 July 2004, Geneva, Switzerland

- The Human Rights Situation of Indigenous Peoples in States and Territories Threatened with Extinction for Environmental Reasons
- Cooperation with Other United Nations bodies in the sphere of Indigenous Issues
- Standard Setting: Free Prior and Informed Consent
- Review of Developments Pertaining to the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms
- Review of activities undertaken under the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People
- Guideline for the review of the draft principles and guidelines on the heritage of indigenous peoples
- Review of Developments Pertaining to the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms -Globalisation and Indigenous Peoples
- Review of Developments Pertaining to the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including their Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms

**3. World Conferences and Summits**

a. World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance (WCAR), August 31 - September 8, 2001, Durban, South Africa

Tebtebba Foundation actively participated, together with other indigenous organizations, in the World Conference Against Racism. Tebtebba helped in lobbying for the inclusion of the phrase "indigenous peoples" in the Durban Political Declaration of the World Conference on Racism.

b. World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), August 26 – September 4, 2002, Johannesburg, South Africa

Tebtebba Foundation was an active organizer of indigenous events leading to the WSSD. It actively participated in the different Preparatory Committees from PrepCom 1, PrepCom 2 (January 28-February 8, 2002, New York), PrepCom 3 (March 25 - April 5, 2002, New York) PrepCom 4 (May 27 - June 7, 2002, Bali, Indonesia). Tebtebba helped accredit hundreds of indigenous peoples to attend not only the Preparatory Committees, notably WSSD PrepCom 4 but also in the WSSD itself. Some of Tebtebba's submissions and interventions, some jointly with other indigenous organization during the PrepComs include:

- Dialogue Paper by Indigenous People [E/CN.17/2002/PC.2/6/Add.3], PrepCom 2
- Indigenous Peoples' Caucus Statement for the Multistakeholder Dialogue on Governance, Partnerships and Capacity Building, PrepCom 4, 27 May 2002
- Indigenous Peoples' Caucus Opening Statement on Partnership, Session 2: Partnership, 28 May 2002, PrepCom 4

In the weeks leading to the WSSD, Tebtebba helped organize the Indigenous Peoples International Summit on Sustainable Development (the Kimberley Summit) on August 20-23, 2002 in Kimberley. Indigenous peoples came out with the Kimberley Declaration and the Indigenous Peoples Plan of Implementation on Sustainable Development, both documents were used by indigenous peoples in its lobby and advocacy work among government delegates to the WSSD. In concrete terms, indigenous peoples achieved a major victory as their lobby work, of which Tebtebba was a major participant, led to the adoption of the sentence: "We reaffirm the vital role of indigenous peoples in sustainable development." (paragraph 22bis) in the Johannesburg Political Declaration [A/Conf.199/L.6/Rev.2/Corr.1].

### 4. Conventions

Tebtebba has actively participated and made interventions during the official sessions in the following conventions and commissions:

a. United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

- Conference of Parties (COP) Sixth Meeting, The Hague, 7-19 April 2002

i. Intervention on Item 12 of the Provisional Agenda – Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity

- Conference of Parties (COP) Seventh Meeting, 9-20 February 2004, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

b. United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

- Conference of Parties 8, 28 October – 9 November 2001, Marrakech, Morocco
- Conference of Parties 9, 1-12 December 2003, Milan, Italy

### 5. United Nations ECOSOC specialized bodies

a. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

Since 2001, Tebtebba was able to work closely with IFAD in support of indigenous peoples. IFAD helped fund Tebtebba-accredited indigenous participants to the Kimberley Summit and the WSSD in September 2002. It also helped fund the 2nd Asian Indigenous Women's Conference held in Baguio City, Philippines last March 6-8, 2002.

b. United Nations Development Programme

Tebtebba has also established good working relationship with the United Nations Development Programme during this reporting period. Tebtebba's Executive Director was appointed member of the UNDP CSO Advisory Committee that advises the UNDP Administrator on civil society participation and engagement with the UNDP. UNDP also helped fund Tebtebba-accredited participants to the WSSD in 2002. In 2004, UNDP funded Tebtebba's publication "Beyond the Silencing of the Guns," a compilation of conflict resolution case studies in indigenous territories in Latin America, Southern Africa and Asia.

Since the United Nations Economic and Social Council accorded Special Consultative Status to Tebtebba in 2001, Tebtebba's engagement with the United Nations has grown by leaps and bounds. Tebtebba has been able to articulate indigenous peoples' views, analyses and perspectives on major issues being tackled in the United Nations which impact on indigenous peoples. This status has helped facilitate indigenous participation in major United Nations conferences, summits, meetings and conventions and in their work with different United Nations agencies. On the other hand, Tebtebba's involvement with the United Nations, we believe, has also helped increase the United Nations, its bodies and agencies, awareness on indigenous peoples, their rights and their great potential in contributing to its goals and aspirations.

### 5. World Evangelical Alliance

**Special Consultative Status granted in 1997**

Over the four years of the reporting period, the World Evangelical Alliance (WEA) made several structural changes although they did not affect the purposes and activities that it carries out with respect to the United Nations. The name of the organization changed from World Evangelical Fellowship to World Evangelical Alliance effective 1 January 2002.

The WEA has affiliated alliances in 123 countries, as well as seven regional affiliates. Much of the work of the WEA is carried on through the affiliated national alliances on a voluntary basis.

The WEA was first accredited with ECOSOC affiliate status in 1997. Since that time it has primarily focused on promoting religious freedom as a fundamental human right in accordance with Articles 18 through 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance.

The WEA formed a Religious Liberty Commission in 1994 to promote religious freedom worldwide as a fundamental human right in accordance primarily with Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The WEA has undertaken educational efforts across its extensive affiliate base to promote the understanding of religious freedom as a human right. The Religious Liberty Commission monitors and responds to violations of religious freedom by calling on governments to live up to their international obligations to protect and promote human rights. The WEA has a large international network of Members of Parliament in many countries of the world who are committed to promoting human rights.

Rev. Johan Candelin is the Executive Director of the WEA Religious Liberty Commission and Goodwill Ambassador for the WEA. He has held this position since 1996. He is also the founder of the First Step Forum, which works at the highest levels of government to address issues of religious freedom in the early stages and promote protection and enhancement of human rights.

**Activities**

1. The WEA has also participated annually in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Rev. Candelin has met with Ambassadors to the United Nations in Geneva to encourage them to uphold religious freedom as a fundamental human right.

17 March - 27April 2001 – Rev. Johan Candelin, Executive Director of the WEA Religious Liberty Commission attended the 57th, 58th 59th and 60th sessions of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva.

18 March- 26 April 2002 – Rev. Johan Candelin, Executive Director of the WEA Religious Liberty Commission attended Commission on Human Rights. Rev. Candelin submitted "The Geneva Report 2002: a Perspective on Global Religious Freedom" on the challenges facing Christian communities.

17 March-25 April 2003 – Rev. Johan Candelin, Executive Director of the WEA Religious Liberty Commission and Dr. Janet Epp Buckingham, member of the WEA Religious Liberty Commission and Director, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada Religious Liberty Commission attended Commission on Human Rights where Rev. Candelin submitted The Geneva Report 2003: A perspective on Global Religious Freedom.

15 March- 23 April 2004 – Rev. Johan Candelin, Executive Director of the WEA Religious Liberty Commission and Dr. Janet Epp Buckingham, member of the WEA Religious Liberty Commission and Director, Evangelical Fellowship of Canada Religious Liberty Commission attended UN Commission on Human Rights. Rev. Candelin submitted The Geneva Report 2004: A perspective on Global Religious Freedom. The WEA made a joint intervention on Sri Lanka at the Commission.

2. The WEA has also been a catalyst in the Micah Challenge, launched in September 2004, which promotes the Millennium Development Goals and calls on signatories to the Millennium Declaration to live up to the commitments they made to halve global poverty by 2015.